

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (currently amended) A swimming pool skimmer guard with attaching means for stationary attachment of the guard to a substantially flat swimming pool wall surface so that the guard is supported on a swimming pool wall surface in spanning relationship across front of a swimming pool skimmer opening to prevent leaves and other floating debris from entering the skimmer opening, comprising:
  - a substantially flat rectangular body of open mesh material, said guard having top and bottom edges and opposite ends and having length and width dimensions to fit across a skimmer opening of a swimming pool, said guard being flexible and bendable into an arcuate shape that enables the length of the guard to be shortened or lengthened, thereby adjusting the guard to fit different size skimmer openings; and
  - said attaching means on said guard operable to attach the guard to a ~~wall of a swimming pool wall surface~~ so that the guard extends completely across a the skimmer opening of a the swimming pool, with the top and bottom edges of the guard disposed, respectively, above and below the surface of water in the pool, and the opposite ends of the guard disposed against the swimming pool wall on opposite sides of the skimmer opening to prevent floating debris on the water from entering said skimmer opening, said guard being self-supporting so that it remains in position across the skimmer opening after being attached.
2. (previously cancelled)
3. (previously cancelled)
4. (previously amended) A swimming pool skimmer guard as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the guard is made in one piece from a plastic material.

5. (previously amended) A swimming pool skimmer guard as claimed in claim 4, wherein:

the attaching means comprises at least one suction cup at each end of the guard.

6. (previously amended) A swimming pool skimmer guard as claimed in claim 5, wherein:

the attaching means further comprises a tab on each end of the body, said at least one suction cup being carried by the tabs.

7. (previously amended) A swimming pool skimmer guard as claimed in claim 6, wherein:

the tabs are each joined to the body by a living hinge, whereby the tabs are easily flexed to lie parallel to a wall surface of a swimming pool to which the guard is to be  
5 attached.

8. (previously amended) A swimming pool skimmer guard as claimed in claim 7, wherein:

the guard is about thirty inches long and fifteen inches high.

9. (previously submitted) A guard for placement in front of a swimming pool skimmer opening to prevent leaves and other floating debris from entering the skimmer opening, comprising:

an elongate body of open mesh material having suction cups thereon for  
5 attachment of the body across a swimming pool skimmer opening, said body being flexible and bendable into an arcuate shape that enables the length of the guard to be shortened or lengthened, thereby adjusting the guard to fit different size skimmer openings, and functioning to trap floating debris and prevent the debris from entering the skimmer opening.

10. (previously submitted) A guard as claimed in claim 9, wherein:  
the guard is made in one piece of a plastic material.

11. (currently amended) A guard for stationary placement in front of a  
swimming pool skimmer opening to prevent leaves and other floating debris from entering  
the skimmer opening, comprising:

5 a substantially flat rectangular body of open mesh material, said guard having top  
and bottom edges and opposite ends and having length and width dimensions to fit across a  
skimmer opening of a swimming pool, said guard being flexible and bendable into an  
arcuate shape that enables the length of the guard to be shortened or lengthened, thereby  
adjusting the guard to fit different size skimmer openings; and

10 attaching means on said guard for attachment ~~of the guard~~ to a substantially flat  
wall surface of a swimming pool ~~so that to support the guard in spanning relationship~~  
extends across a the skimmer opening of the swimming pool, with the top and bottom  
edges of the guard disposed, respectively, above and below the surface of water in the  
pool, and the opposite ends of the guard disposed against the swimming pool wall on  
opposite sides of the skimmer opening to prevent floating debris on the water from  
15 entering said skimmer opening, said guard being self-supporting so that it remains in  
position across the skimmer opening after being attached.